CLASSIFICATION REPORT NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY Austria REPORT NO. 1

TOTAL GOVIET Sponsored "Motional League"

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EVALUATION DATE OF CONTENT

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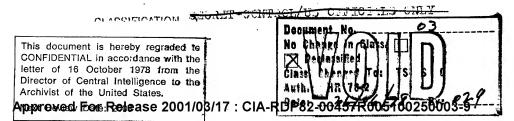
REMARKS

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- 1. Former Nazis who are now disappointed members of the YdU (Association of \Independents) in Vienna and Lower Austria are being subjected to propaganda from the Soviet-sponsored regional league" (NL).
- 2. The NL emerged from cover when it appeared that Heger's "National Demokratischer Verband" (National Demokratic Association) would faik. Figl is NL chairman, Slavik, a former 33 leader, is vice-chairman. The carefully conducted propaganda activities primarily appeal to leaders of the old regime. All invitations to meetings are written. In meeting was held on 10 March 1950 for dismissed administrative officials and police and followed a rally for former members of the National-Jocialist Officers' Association. Special meetings were also held for SS armed Forces Officers, HJ leaders and DAF functionaries.
- 3. The principal theme at these meetings is that: "It is impossible to prevent the establishment of the People's Democracy in Austria, This will be achieved by the Soviet Union in one way or another. Former Nazis who adhere to the Austrian People's Party will naturally have no future in a People's Democracy, but those who join the NL will also find relief from their financial difficulties. The Soviet Union demands nothing but a loyal attitude."
- 4. Strict enforcement of the denazification law in Vienna and Lower Austria makes it easy to understand why many people incriminated under that law are gullible targets in this propaganda campaign which is said to be personally conducted by General Swiridov. Swiridov speaks fluent German, has engaging manners and has an attractive personality. Persons

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interested in the MI may contact priviley. It is alleged that he never fails to receive a visitor from this group.

- 5. The Soviets su port this propagate action in Vienna and Louer sustrict with a number of a situation measures and intensive spoken propagate to the effect that the conversion of justic into a people's democracy is inevitable.
- 6. The greatest psychological blow was when the Loviets asked the lower austrian government for a life history of each official assigned to it. Then the federal government refused to comply with this request, the Loviets demanded biographies of those officials who had been members of the maxi Party. Though also rejected, this request came as a shock to all officials concerned. Then of them will probably compromise by joining the communist Party of Justria or the NL.

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